



Lake Simcoe Watch Questions for York-Simcoe 2018 Federal By-Election Candidates

Lake Simcoe Water Quality and Cold Water Fishery

According to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, to improve the water quality of Lake Simcoe (e.g., reduction of weeds and algae blooms) and to protect our cold water fishery (e.g., lake trout and whitefish) Lake Simcoe's annual phosphorus loading must be reduced by 50% to 44 tonnes per year.

Streams that are affected by runoff (e.g., fertilizers, manure) from urban, rural and agricultural areas are responsible for more than half of Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings. Dust from construction sites, pits and quarries and agricultural lands is another major source of phosphorus.

Woodlands and wetlands help to regulate water quality by filtering out contaminants and absorbing excess nutrients before they reach the Lake. The loss of woodlands, wetlands and natural shorelines has led to increased phosphorus loadings into Lake Simcoe.

Unfortunately, the Government of Ontario's phosphorus reduction strategy does not include a specific plan for how to actually lower Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year.

(For more information please see: www.ontario.ca/page/lake-simcoe-phosphorus-reduction-strategy.)

Question #1: Should the Government of Canada provide funding to the Government of Ontario, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and/or municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed to assist with the development and implementation of a plan to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year by 2026?

Answer: **Yes** _____ No _____ Undecided _____

Additional Comments:

The Liberal government has made the environmental protection, particularly of our lakes, rivers and waterways, a national priority.

The Liberal plan has invested \$1.3 billion over five years, including \$500 million to create a new Nature Fund to protect species at risk, expand protected areas and sanctuaries, and establish a coordinated network of conservation areas.

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The Nature Fund will make it possible to secure private land, support provincial and territorial species protection efforts, and help build indigenous capacity to conserve land and species, for our benefit and the benefit of future generations.

I am committed to working with Justin Trudeau to protect our air, water, and natural resources for our children and grandchildren.

Lake Simcoe's Forests, Wetlands and Meadows-

According to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, at least 40% of Lake Simcoe's watershed area should consist of *high-quality* forests, wetlands and meadows.

Currently, approximately 39% of Lake Simcoe's watershed consists of natural cover. Unfortunately, much of this land is highly fragmented and therefore does not provide *high quality* habitat and migration corridors for animals, birds and plants.

Question #2: Should the Government of Canada provide funding to the Government of Ontario, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and/or municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed to assist with the development and implementation of a plan to ensure that by 2026, at least 40% of Lake Simcoe's watershed consists of *high-quality connected* forests, wetlands and meadows?

Answer: **Yes** _____ No _____ Undecided _____

Additional Comments:

The Liberal government made a historic investment of \$1.3 billion in Budget 2018, to protect nature, which will help us achieve our goals of doubling Canada's protected spaces and protecting species at risk.

Unlike the Harper Conservatives who attempted to shut down research at Ontario's Experimental Lakes Area, which provided essentially scientific research on water health, before capitulating to pressure from the science community and agreeing to transfer responsibility of the ELA to the provincial government, the Liberal government is committed to evidence-based decision-making to ensure that protect Lake Simcoe's watershed.

If elected in York—Simcoe, I will be a strong voice in Parliament that stands up for the issues effecting families and the people of our community.

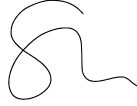
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Shaun Tanaka

Print Name

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a few loops and a horizontal stroke at the end.

Signature

January 21st

Date

Please return by Monday, January 21, 2019 to Jack Gibbons at Jack@LakeSimcoeWatch.ca